

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~PEKING'S ROLE IN ANGOLA

Peking has had, throughout the years of the Angolan insurgency, some association with all three nationalist movements. Its modest material support, provided during the early years of the insurgency, was primarily channeled through the African Liberation Committee, a body established by the Organization of African Unity to deal with nationalist movements in the still dependent African nations.

After Zaire established relations with Peking in 1973, however, the bulk of Chinese aid went to the Zairian-backed National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). The first contingent of an eventual 100-man Chinese military advisory team arrived in Zaire in May 1974 to begin training FNLA troops at the movement's main base in southern Zaire. The Chinese provided some military equipment as well (e.g., bazookas, automatic and semi-automatic weapons), and their overall aid--training in particular--helped the FNLA to establish its forces firmly in northern Angola. FNLA activities are now concentrated inside Angola, and the Chinese advisory team has returned to Peking.

During the foregoing period, the Chinese also renewed their contacts with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)--contacts which for the most part had

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been broken in 1967 when UNITA President Savimbi was expelled from Zambia and subsequently set up his headquarters inside Angola--and provided modest support to UNITA in the form of financial aid. (Savimbi was expelled following a series of UNITA attacks on the Benguela Railroad which transits Angola and on which Zambia was--and is-- heavily dependent for the export of its copper.) Some Chinese military equipment is believed to have been en route to UNITA, but it apparently was held up in Tanzania, whose President's sympathies are with the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

Although it appeared for a time--following the visit of a high-level MPLA delegation to Peking in spring 1975--that the Chinese would also provide aid to the MPLA, there is no evidence that such aid has been given.

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